

ACTIVIST NEWS

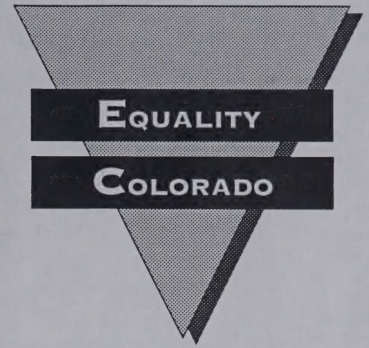
A PUBLICATION OF EQUALITY COLORADO

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APRIL 1998

REGIONAL EQUALITY CONFERENCES!

Cañon City and Montrose will be host to two exciting regional conferences this June. Sponsored by Equality Colorado, these one-day conferences are follow-ups to our statewide "Justice Now" conference held last fall. A major goal of these conferences is to give activists throughout the region a chance to network, build relationships, and learn with each other.

⇒ The Western Colorado conference: "Across the Divide," will be **Saturday, June 6** at the Holiday Inn Express in Montrose. There will be several panels, workshops, and a video. Gwen Lachelt of the San Juan Citizens Alliance will be the keynote speaker.

⇒ The Southern Colorado conference: "Building Bridges" will be **Saturday, June 13** at the Abbey in Cañon City. The focus will be on learning about, discussing, and overcoming the barriers that divide us in the community, particularly around generations, sexuality/gender, race/ethnicity, and geography.

ACTION!

► Fill out a registration sheet or contact Equality Colorado. Early bird registrations are due April 30; scholarships are available to both conferences, thanks to NetCore, WestCAP, and San Juan Basin Health Dept.

Also, if you'd like to volunteer to help plan one of the conferences, we'd love to have you aboard!

Hate Crimes Bill Awaits Hearing

HB 1268, the Hate Crimes bill, will be heard on **Thursday, April 9** by the House Appropriations Committee. This bill would include sexual orientation, age, and disability in the list of categories covered by hate crimes legislation. According to state budget folks, the cost of enforcing this law is minimal (less than \$200,000 over five years). Relative to the entire budget of Colorado, this is very small. It would be terrible to see this bill die once again in this committee, especially since new figures released by the FBI show that after anti-black and anti-Semitic attacks, anti-GLBT crimes are the third-highest category of bias-motivated attacks.

ACTION!

► Time to make the calls! Rep. Tony Grampas is chair of this committee. He can be reached at (303) 866-2957 or (800) 811-7647 (outside Denver). You can also fax the Colorado State House of Representatives at 2291 Contact Equality for other committee members.

Fort Collins City Workers Safe -- Others Not

Employees of the City of Fort Collins now have protection from sexual orientation discrimination. That's because the City Manager ordered changes to the City's employment regulations. The City joins other employers in Northern Colorado, such as Hewlett Packard and Colorado State University, in having such a policy.

This move comes after the City Council unanimously approved an ordinance adding sexual orientation as a category in the city's newly-revised human rights ordinance. Unfortunately, the two, more general human rights ordinances just passed are now the target of ballot initiatives to repeal them. Greg Snyder, a local businessman tied to the Christian Coalition, needs only 1,783 valid signatures on each petition. Local activists are working to defeat these measures through public education about civil rights.

ACTION!

► How to help the Ft. Collins campaign: stay tuned to this space for more info on how local activists may need your help.

► How to get your employer to include "sexual orientation" in its nondiscrimination statement: ask him or her! Equality Colorado has materials to help make your efforts easier and your arguments more convincing. Give us a call!

Announcing Equality Pride Awards

Nominations for the first ever Equality Pride Awards, to be held on Saturday, June 27 7-9 p.m. at the Temple Events Center. Send your ideas of people who've done great things for GLBT equality in Colorado to Equality Colorado.

Prevention Workers Sought

Equality Colorado has gotten verbal approval to place three Americorps*VISTA volunteers to work on issues across the state. These individuals, to be based in Denver, Colorado Springs, and Grand Junction will work on community building and violence prevention targeting GLBT communities. We're recruiting locally (especially college graduates!) for people interested in joining the program as a full-time paid worker. Contact Sue at Equality.

Hawaii Campaign Impropriety?

In Hawaii, the organization formed to support the passage of a proposed constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, is under a storm of fundraising controversy. "Save Traditional Marriage" has been accused of illegally accepting foreign donations, and sponsoring a speech by "Seven Habits" author Steven Covey at which participants may not have been told that the proceeds would benefit the campaign.

ACTION! The group fighting to stop the amendment, "Protect Our Constitution," welcomes your financial and personal support. Contributions are NOT tax deductible; and are limited by Hawaii law to \$1000. Contributions, in aggregate over the course of the 1998 campaign, are publicly reported if they exceed \$100 -- with name, address, occupation, employer, amount. The address for Protect Our Constitution is PO Box 235704 Honolulu, HI 96823-3511. Stay tuned for more about how much Covey himself is involved in this campaign.

Snapshots Across the State

- In **Trinidad**, community members have started a GLBT movie night. The first such event will be Thursday, April 23. For more information, call Equality or contact Kyle Meredith at (719) 846-9553 or email kvm@rmi.net.
- In **Grand Junction** on March 9, over 50 Mesa State College students attended a program on being allies to the GLBT community. The event was very well-received, although one student said she was threatened with dismissal if she attended.
- In **Denver's Northern suburbs**, the Center has begun "OutNorth," a youth support and activity group for GLBTQ youth and friends, 21 and under. The meetings will be Wednesdays, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Call (303) 831-6268 x15.
- In **Colorado Springs**, Equality is working in cooperation with Ground Zero and the Pikes Peak Gay & Lesbian Community Center to provide a staff person every Wednesday through June. The organizations will be working on building advocacy networks, creating a volunteer base, and planning for "Building Bridges," the June conference in Cañon City. Contact Jonathan at Equality if you're interested in helping out!

News & Updates

Springs Council rejects CFV request: The City Council in Colorado Springs voted not to consider the request made on behalf of Colorado for Family Values to reconsider their "Zero Tolerance for Discrimination" policy. The policy opposed "sexual" discrimination by the city, which some have interpreted to include sexual orientation discrimination.... **We thought it was an April Fools joke:** Gary Bauer, head of the Focus-on-the-Family-aligned Family Research Council, announced that he's considering a run for the presidency of the United States. Why? Because the Republican Party today is JUST TOO LIBERAL!

EQUALITY CALENDAR

April 1998

7 • PRECINCT CAUCUSES Become involved at the very beginning of the political process. If you're a Democrat or Republican, call your state or county party to find out where your caucus will be held.

9 • CBC/EQUALITY DINNER, 6 p.m. at the Colburn Hotel, 10th and Grant, Denver. The cost is \$20 for CBC members and \$25 for guests. U.S. Senate candidate Dottie Lamm will speak. Prepaid reservations are required by April 7; call the CBC Hotline at (303) 595.8042 or email OTHInc@aol.com.

13 • SECOND MONDAYS POTLUCK 7 p.m., Family of Christ Presbyterian Church, 2410 35th Ave., Greeley. Join us for Greeley's monthly community meeting! Bring a dish to share. Contact Jonathan at Equality for details.

16 • FORT COLLINS CITIZENS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS 7 p.m., Foothills Unitarian Church, 1815 Yorktown Ave. Help ensure civil rights for all in Ft. Collins. Call (970) 493-1117.

20 • FORT COLLINS COALITION 7 p.m., Lambda Community Center, 147 W. Oak #2. Network and help build community cohesion. Call (970) 221-3247.

May 1998

2 • VOICES OF FAITH SPIRITUALITY DISCUSSION GROUP 10 a.m. to Noon in Denver. For location and more information, contact Laurene at Equality.

3 • VOICES OF FAITH MONTHLY INTERFAITH WORSHIP SERVICE 7 p.m., Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St., Denver. Contact Laurene at Equality for details.

9 • BLGLF CONFERENCE Rescheduled from the Fall. \$35 (incl. lunch), \$40 day of; Keynote speaker Joycelyn Elders, with BLGLF's Spring event that evening. Doubletree Hotel, 3203 Quebec, Denver. Call (303) 322-5029

23 • RAINBOW YOUTH DAY/QUEER PROM V Rally at Noon at the State Capitol; picnic at Cheesman Park, 1:00; Prom at Tivoli 540, Auraria Campus, 7 p.m. - midnight.